

**ABSTRACT**

A computerized system and method for transforming the results of a query into a hierarchical information stream, such as an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) data stream is disclosed. A database server receives a query and generates a rowset. A rowset processor, using the mode specified in the query, processes the rowset and query to generate the XML data stream. For the “auto1” mode, the rowset processor transforms a rowset into an XML data stream using primary-foreign key information specified in the query to determine nesting. For the “auto2” mode, the rowset processor transforms a rowset into an XML data stream using table ordering information included in the query to determine nesting. For the “explicit” mode, the rowset processor transforms a rowset into an XML data stream using the explicit organizational information specified in the query.